

EXTRACTS

FROM SEVERAL

MERCATORS;

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS

On the State of the

BRITISH TRADE.

D U B L I N :

Printed and Sold by *Edward Waters* at the New Post-
Office Printing-House in *Essex-Street*, at the Corner
of *Sycamore-Ally*, 1713. (Price 6 d.)

EXTRACTS

FROM SEVERAL

MERCATORS

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS

On the State of the



BRITISH TRADE.

DUBLIN:

Printed and sold by Edmund Newnes at the New Post-Office Printing-Office in Essex-Street, at the Corner of Sparrow- Alley. 1713.
(Price 6d.)

EXTRACTS

From several *MERCATORS*, &c.

A Comparison of the *Duties* payable on the Four Species excepted out of the Rule of the *Tariff* of 1664, with what they are now liable to, by several subsequent *Tariffs*; and how they will stand charg'd by the *Tariff* of 1699.

	1664		1665		1667		1687		1701		1699	
	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>	<i>Liv.</i>	<i>Sol.</i>
<i>Whale-Bone cut & prepar'd,</i> 1. C. Weight;	2	10	—	—	15	00	—	—	—	—	9	00
<i>Whale Fin 3 C. Weight.</i>	3	00	—	—	30	00	—	—	—	—	20	00
<i>Train Oyl 5 C. and 20 l. Wt.</i>	3	00	—	—	12	00	—	—	—	—	7	10
<i>Broad Cloth 25 Ells.</i>	40	00	—	—	80	00	120	00	prhb.		35	00
<i>Ratines 25 Ells, pay as Cloth</i> <i>Serges, 13 to 15 Ells.</i>	10	00	—	—	15	00	24	00	prhb.		11	00
<i>Sugar refin'd and in loaf or</i> <i>otherwise; and Sugar</i> <i>Candy, white or brown,</i> 1 C. Weight.	15	00	22	10	21	00	—	—	—	—	22	10

IT will be necessary to enter a little into the History of our Trade with France, for the last 40 or 45 Years: And because some Period of Time is proper in all such Cases to take a Rise from, it shall be placed at the Year 1660. If any think that Time is not sufficiently remote, they shall be fairly followed, let them go back as far as they please: In the mean while, I must take Notice to the Reader, that the Particulars are too copious and extensive, and especially their Numbers so pressing; that no Time or Room can be spared for *Preambles*, and *Introductions*.

About the Year 1660, the general Book of Rates was made in England, according to an Act of Parliament, whereby a Subsidy of Tonnage was laid on *Wines* and *Brandies*, and a Subsidy of Poundage after the Rate of 5 *l. per Cent.* upon all Goods and Merchandizes Imported.

In Imitation of this, in the Year 1664, the French made a General *Tariff* or Book of Rates, wherein they followed us in Rating all Goods and Merchandizes at a Tax of about 5 *l. per Cent. ad Valorem*, except that, for the Encouragement of their own People to improve in Trade and Manufactures, all the Manufactures of *Silk*, *Gold*, *Silver*, *Hair*, *Thread*, and *Wool*, were Rated at 10 *per Cent.* according to their Value: This *Tariff*

was

was esteemed by all the Nations in these parts of Europe, to be very easy, and not the least Interruption to their Trade with France.

That the Reader may see at once what was paid upon our *English Manufactures* by that *Tariff*, and what has been laid on in France since that time, the foregoing Table is plac'd at the beginning of this Paper; and also, as what there will be Occasion often to mention, and refer to: Out of which the *Whale-bone*, *Fins*, and *Oyl*, might have been omitted; because we have no Share of that Trade: But as it may be useful for the Information of some People, the whole is above Inserted.

All our *Woollen Manufactures* Exported from England to France, are reduced to the old Duties payable by the *Tariff* of 1664. Except *Broad-Cloth* and *Serges*, which are to pay, (as by the *Tariff* of 1699) (that also being capable of being moderated by Commissioners) thus:

Broad-Cloth, which from the Year 1667, paid 80 *Livres*, will now pay only 55 *Livres*.

Mill'd Serges, which paid 15 *Livres*, now 11 *Livres*.

All other wollen Goods pay after the *Tariff* of 1664, (as aforesaid,) when their *Wines* paid Duty here but 7 *l.* 10 *s.* per Ton, and *Brandy* but 11 *l.* 10 *s.*

This part being thus stated, let us turn the Tables, and view the other side of the Trade, (*viz.*) Our Import from France, where the Particulars will be very surprizing; and this following Conclusion is most natural there from, (*viz.*) That if we Traded with France to our Advantage before, much more must we do so now; for the State of the Trade between England and France stands thus.

An Account of the several Duties which were payable upon French Goods Imported into England from France at the Year 1664, and of the Duties payable upon the same Goods after the Peace.

Payable in 1664.	What the same Goods must pay now.
<i>A Ton of Wine</i> paid 1664 7 10 0	<i>A Ton of Wine</i> must pay 17 13 26 15 31
<i>A Ton of Brandy</i> - 1 10 0	<i>A Ton of Brandy</i> { Custom. L. 005 05 6 } 05 1 09 6
20 <i>Wey</i> of Salt, being 40	20 <i>Wey</i> of Salt. { Custom. L. 008 09 9 } 275 03 1
<i>Bushels</i> each <i>Wey</i> . - 1 00 0	Excise. L. 266 13 4
20 <i>l.</i> weight wrought Silks 3 00 0	20 <i>l.</i> Weight Wrought Silks: 12 03 7
20 <i>l.</i> weight Alamodes and	20 <i>l.</i> Weight Alamodes and Lustrings. 034 00 0
<i>Lustrings</i> . - 6 00 0	<i>Dowls</i> 106 Ells. 000 12 7
<i>Dowls</i> 106 Ells. - 0 07 6	

Every True Britain, whose Concern is for his Countries Interest, must look upon this Table of Duties with great Satisfaction.

The setting this Account against the former, clears up the *Treaty of Commerce* & effectually, that farther Enlargements must seem unnecessary: Nevertheless, since Matters of Fact concur, it shall next be shewed what Regard Her Majesty has had to the other Trading-Interest of Her Subjects: How the Ports of France are opened to Them upon equal Terms with the French Subjects themselves; and that even in some things prejudicial to themselves, as in the *Levant Trade* in particular.

The *Hudsons Bay Company* Pray, that the French may surrender all the Forts and Settlements in *Hudsons Bay* and *Straight*, and be obliged to renounce all Right and Pretensions thereto for the Future.

Granted.

And that they make Restitution of Damages to the Value of 108,514 *l.* Sterl.

Granted. The Quantum only being refer'd to Commissioners.

The

The *Turky or Levant Company* Pray, that They may have the samelienerty of Trade in *France* as the *French* themselves, and not to pay higher Duties than by the *Tariff* of 1664.

Granted,

And that They be allowed to carry Goods to all Parts of *France* from the *Levant* directly, or the Goods of the *Levant* (viz.) *Raw Silks, &c.* from *Great-Britain*.

Granted, as in 1664.

The *East-India Company* Pray, that the Prohibitions and high Duties laid in *France* on *East-India* Goods sent from *England* may be taken off, and to be on the same foot as in the first of King *Charles's* Reign.

Granted. And yet the Prohibition in *England* of *East-India* Goods from any Place but the *East-Indies*, continues.

The *Virginia Merchants* Pray, That the *Tobacco* of the *English* Plantations be Imported into *France* under a reasonable Duty, and the Importers to sell it without Subjection to the *Farmers*.

Granted. Under the same Duty which other Nations pay, as to the *Farm*, refer'd to the *Commissioners*.

Lyme Regis Prays, The Prohibition of *Woollen Manufactures*, and the high Duties laid in *France*, may be taken off, and the said Goods be Imported into *France*, as formerly.

Granted,

The *Merchants of Bristol* Pray, The same as above from *Lyme*; as also that *Tonnage* of Ships be abolished on both Sides.

Granted,

And that all our Merchants be permitted to Buy and Sell *Tobacco* in *France* under moderate Customs, without being subjected to the *Farmers*.

Referred to the *Commissioners*.

That nothing might be wanting to secure to *Great Britain* a compleat Freedom of their Trade to *France*; all the Advantages of the Treaties *France* has made with other Nations, are contained in this Treaty; and all the Privileges stipulated for them, are by her Majesty's Care for her Subjects Profit made our own, as by the *Eighth* and other Articles; whereby it is stipulated, that her Majesty's Subjects shall be Treated in *France* in the same manner as the Nations they most favoured, and even as the *French King's* own Subjects.

The *Ninth Article* adds, And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, Decrees made in *France* since the said *Tariff*, of 1664 contrary therunto, in Respect of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, shall be repealed.

As to this it is objected; that it is not said Goods and Merchandizes of the Subjects of *Great Britain*, but Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, which implies (say they) the Manufactures of *Great Britain* only. But the Absurdity here is so gross, that it is strange the Wisdom of the *Turkey Company* should fall into it: For (1.) if it had been meant of the Manufactures of *Great Britain*, only, it would have been said, The GROWTH and PRODUCE, not the Goods and Merchandizes. By Growth and Produce, indeed the Manufactures had been understood; but by the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain* must be understood, the Goods and Merchandizes, which the Subjects of *Great Britain* TRADE IN. But (2.) it is out of Question, That if the taking off the Prohibitions, &c. of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, was meant only of the Manufactures, then was the whole *Levant Trade* prohibited still; which the Gentlemen do not pretend to.

Thus it appears, that the Construction the Company would have put on the Words of the 9th Article, (viz.) Goods and Merchandizes of *Britain*, would be the Ruin of that very Trade which they Petition to support, and would Prohibit all their *Levant Goods* in *France*. Such People, like Children, must be dealt with by the Nature of things, and must have given them not always what they DO ask, but what they WOULD ask.

Some Considerations might be offered here, upon the *Turkey Companies* desiring the Liberty to carry their *Raw Silk* from *England* to *France*; and yet at the same time Petition that the *Silk Manufactures* here should receive Encouragement, as if carrying the *Silk Broad* (which is a means to keep up the Price of *Silk*) should at the same time be a means to encourage the Weavers and Manufacturers of *Silk* in this Kingdom. This Mystery is refer'd to them to unfold. Also the Consistency of their desiring to supply *France* with *Raw Silk*, at the same time that they desire the *Silk Manufactures* of *France* should not be encouraged.

In general, all the *Memorials*, *Petitions*, and *Representations* given in, as well from publick Bodies of Men, as from private Merchants, do allow, that if the *Privileges*, *Advantages*, *Abatements* of Duties, &c. which they request, or represent as needful, may be obtained, there will be a great and beneficial Trade driven from *England* to *France*.

To make it plain then, that all those *Privileges*, *Advantages*, *Abatements*, &c. are really obtain'd by the *Treaty*; the Contents of those *Memorials* are here sum'd up, (the *Memorials* themselves being too long) and most of them demanding the same thing with but little Variation.

All they Petition for may be reduced to these Heads.

1. Reduction of Duties in *France* upon our Goods, especially the *Woollen Manufactures*, to the Tariff of 1664.

2. Liberty of carrying all our Manufactures into *France*, and the taking off all Prohibitions.

3. Abolishing the 50 *Sols per Ton*, and the *Droit au vein*.

4. Liberty of Importing *Tobacco* into *France*, and of Selling it there free from the Farm.

5. Liberty of Importing *Levant Goods*, either directly from the *Levant*, or from *England*.

6. Liberty of Importing *East-India Goods* into *France*.

7. *British Merchants* to be free from the *Paper Timbre*, or stamp'd Paper.

8. That Ships may Trade Coastways in *France*, without double Demands of Customs, &c.

Ships may deliver part of the Cargo in *France*, and proceed with the rest without paying Duties.

9. Surrender of *Hudson's Bay* and *Straight*, *Newfoundland* and the *Fishery*, *Annapolis*, and *New Britain*.

10. Reparation of Damages to Merchants.

1. Obtained, with a Reserve only to *Cloths* and *Cloth-Serges*; which is to be debated by Commissioners, and at most to pay but as in 1699.

2. Obtained.

3. Obtained generally (tho' the *Dutch* pay it Coastway) as also the *Droit au vein*, which was a cruel Custom that gave all the Estates of *English Merchants* who died in *France* to the King.

4. Obtain'd; only as to the Farm, refer'd.

5. Obtain'd.

6. Obtain'd.

7. Obtain'd; and (which was not ask'd) a Freedom of Religion and Christian Burial, things the Petitioners shew'd little Concern about.

8. Obtained.

9. Obtained; together with the Island of *St. Christopher*, which was not ask'd.

10. Obtain'd; the *Quintum* only being refer'd.

It would be reasonable here to desire those People who insist so much upon this Reserve of *Cloths* and *Serges* out of the *Tariff* of 1664, to consider what the exception amounts to, and how far it may hurt the Trade, that they may Judge whether the Damage is equal to the Complaint: To this purpose the Difference in the *Serges* is set down again here; (*viz.*) That the *Serges* which paid 10 *Livres* in 1664, and were afterwards brought to 15, and then to 24, and after that prohibited, may now be freely Imported into *France* paying only 11 *Livres*, that is to say, one *Livre* advance upon a piece of 15 *Ells*; and the Difference upon *Cloths* is, that the Piece which paid 40 *Livres* before, in 1664, must pay now 55, being 15 *Livres* upon about 31 Yards *English* Measure.

To make this Estimate more plain, it is to be noted, that the *Ell* mention'd in all these Cases is to be understood the *French Ell* containing 5 Quarters of the *English Yard*, and so the Account of the Exception of *Cloths*, and *Cloth-Serges*, may be read thus.

Cloths per piece containing 15 *Ells*, that is, 31 *English Yards* and a Quarter, to pay 15 *Livres* more than by the *Tariff* of 1664.

Cloth-Serges per piece containing 15 *Ells*, that is 18 Yards and 3 Quarters, to pay 1 *Livre* more than by the *Tariff* of 1664.

Considering Men, when they come to weigh this, will be apt to wonder what it is the Trading part of this Nation have been so much alarm'd at in the Treaty with *France*, and will hardly be brought to believe that the Complaints which have been made of ruining our *Manufactures* and encouraging the *French*, should all be rais'd from these small Differences.

Would these People turn the *Tables*, and make the Case of *France* here their own, what loud Complaints would they make in *England*, if any *Manufactures* which our own People were endeavouring to make at home, should have been admitted by the Treaty from *France*, with alike small Advance on the *French* Goods more than they paid in 1664. Whereas every body is sensible that the *French* are to pay here upon all their Goods 2, 3, 4 or 5000 *per Cent* higher Duties than they paid in 1664, and in some Goods much more. Had these advanced Duties been taken off, how would they alledge that Foreigners were encouraged; that the Bread was taken out of the Mouths of our own People; that the Importing *Manufactures* from abroad, which we could make at Home, was taking away the Employment from our own Poor to give to the *French*: Yet this is the Case here. The *French* have given all the Encouragement they could to their People to fall upon the making the *Woollen Manufactures* of *Great Britain*; it is supposed none can blame them for that; some steps they have taken in it which promised them Success, while the Duties of 80 *Livres* and 120 *Livres* were laid on *English Cloths*; and yet even then, great Quantities of *English Cloth* were carried into *France*, which oblig'd the King of *France*, at last, to make a Prohibition of *English Woollen Manufactures* in general, (*viz.*) in the Year 1701.

But after all these Advances in the *Woollen Manufactures*, the *French* King being oblig'd by the Necessity of his Affairs to make a Peace, has yielded to such a Peace as opens the Door into *France* for the *Woollen Manufactures* of *Great Britain*, at the same Rate of Custom and Duties as they paid 49 Years ago, long before his own People made any considerable Attempt that way; having excepted or reserved but two Species of *Manufactures*, and upon them has only advanced about 2 or 3 *per Cent*.

There is hardly a *Manufacture* Erected by us in *Britain* in the memory of Man, but that if the high Duties laid upon Foreign Goods of the same kind were taken off, or within 2 or 3 *per Cent* of what they were before, would be ruin'd, and the Undertakers thereof must lay them down: If the *Manufacturers* of Paper, Linnen Cloth, Canvas, or Sail Cloth, and many other things were heard to this, it is believed they would all acknowledge the Truth of it.

But the *French King* is obliged by this *Treaty*, what Discouragement soever it may be to his own Subjects and their *Manufactures*, to take off all his Prohibitions and high Duties, and give all the *English Manufactures* a free Entrance into his Country, upon the same easy Duties they paid in the Year 1664, except two sorts only, (viz.) *Cloth*, and *Cloth Serges*.

That this may admit of no Dispute, the Affirmative leads to the particular sorts of our *Woollen Manufactures*, which by this *Treaty* may be carryed into *France* by the Rule of the *Tariff* of 1664, viz.

Spanish Cloths, Serges, not Cloth-Serges, Double Bays, Single Bays, Says, Perpetuana's, Spanish Druggets, all sorts of Norwich Stuff, Linsey-Woolseys, Kidderminster Stuffs, Shalloons, Chenys, Pen-Bones, half Thicks, Cottons, plain double and single Dozens, i. e. Yorkshire Cloths, Kersters, Duffels, Tammies, Plaids, Blankets, Rugz, Flannels, Worsted Hose, Woollen Hose, Knit-Caps, Knit-Waistcoats, Knit-Petticoats, Friezes, Camlaloons, and whatever other things are made of Wool, and wrought in Great Britain, all are reduced by this Tariff to the Duties payable in 1664.

What has been said of the Liberty of Commerce obtained by the *Treaty with France*, the Reduction of the Duties in *France* to the *Tariff* of 1664, and the Reserve or Limitation of two Species of our *Manufactures* only, (viz.) of *Broad Cloths* and *Serges*, to a small Advance of Duty; has been more than sufficient to explain those things to any Mens Understandings, which are not politically dull: Unless these People expected that her Majesty should have made a Condition with the *French King*, that his Subjects should make no *Woollen Cloth*, or that when they had made it, they should not export it to *Turkey*, for fear of prejudicing our *Levant Trade*.

If the *French Merchants* in *Turkey* hold their *Cloths* up to equal Price with the *English*, no Buyer will take them, except when a sufficient Quantity of *English Cloth* cannot be had to supply the Market.

The *French Cloths* being inferiour to the *English* in Quality, are for that Reason, and no other, Sold in *Turkey* at a lower Price.

It is evident that the *French* want the Materials, (viz.) the *Wool*, especially in those parts of *France* where their *Cloths* for the *Turkey Trade* are made; and whither the *English* or *Irish Wool* which they get by Stealth, cannot be carried without very great Expence; and that the *Wool* they make use of instead thereof, and to mix with the *Spanish Wool*, is of an inferiour Quality to the *English Wool*, they themselves will not deny. But if these were not so, and they were to make *Cloth* wholly of *Spanish Wool*, or of *English* and *Spanish Wool* mixt, yet the general Way of Workmanship of the *French Nation*, is known to be slihter and looser in all their *Manufactures*, than the *Manufactures* of the like kind made here, and that our Workmen perform almost all kinds of Work firmer and more substantial, not only than the *French*, but also than any other People. So that our *Cloths*, and even all our *Woollen Manufactures*, will Sell for a better Price, than *Manufactures* of the same Denomination from other Countries.

As to the *Silk Manufactures*, they have such a sufficient Provision, made for them, and such Encouragement given them already by the high Duties on Foreign wrought *Silks*, as well of *France* as of any other Country, that as they stood in no need of Prohibitions during the War, so they stand in need of no farther Assistance during the Peace.

For this Reason, as they have nothing to ask but that those Duties should remain, so the *Treaty of Commerce* has taken none of them away; and if the *Silk Manufactures* cannot subsist with that Difference upon them which those Duties have laid, neither would they subsist with a Total Prohibition.

It is observable, that during the said high Duties, particularly upon *Alamodes*, and *Lustrings*, none of them have been Imported here, that is, legally Imported; as for Clandestine Importation, or Running of Goods, that can be no Argument, because nei-

ther

ther can the Quantity be great, or is it possible entirely to prevent those things either in this Country or in any other. The Difference between the Manufactures of *Silk* at home, and those imported, stands thus :

Foreign wrought *Silks* of all kinds, pay for every 20 pound Weight, L. 12. 2. 7. *Nett Duty*.

Alamodes and *Lustrings*, pay for every 20 pound Weight L. 31. 17. 3. *Nett Duty*.

Now if the Foreign wrought *Silks* pay above 12 *Sbillings* per Pound Weight, Duty upon Importation, all Discounts taken off; the Disadvantage which they must lie under, must exceedingly lessen that Importation, and seems sufficient not only to encourage, but to quicken the Industry of our own *Weavers*.

But since the Encouragement of the *Silk* Trade, and Employment of the *Weavers* is spoken of as a thing of such extraordinary Weight, it may be very necessary to state the Case of *Manufacturing* in general, that our Opinion of things may be rightly balanc'd.

It is an undoubted Rule of Trade, that the Employment of our own Poor, and Consumption of our own Growth, is the first Principal of Commerce, and should be the last End of all our National Improvement.

As *Great Britain* is stated in Matters of Trade, this Concern for the General Interest of that Trade, centers upon our *Woollen Manufacture*; There is a just Concern due to every Branch of Trade, but to that most, which most contributes to, and is most essential, in the two great Ends of Trade above-mentioned; (viz.) *Employment of the People, and Consumption of the Produce*. This the *Woollen Manufacture* is so far superior in, to all other Branches of our Commerce, as admits of no Comparison; and therefore the principal Concern of the Nation is, and ought to be the *Woollen Manufacture*.

It is true, Prudence may so guide, as that this Concern for the *Woollen Manufacture*, tho' it be with a Preference to all our other Goods, yet may not be in Opposition to them; there being a manifest Difference between, shewing a peculiar Regard to one, and injuring the other; as a Man having many Children, may shew a peculiar Affection to his eldest, without injuring the rest; But then, on the other hand, neither must any of the other Branches of Trade claim or expect such a Regard or Concern to be shewn to them, as should be injurious to the *Woollen Manufactures*.

The *Silk* Trade is useful and advantageous, but *Silk* is a modern *Manufacture*, and is useful and advantageous, as it is a Return for, and encourages the Exportation of the *Woollen Manufactures*, and no otherwise : The *Woollen Manufacture* is the Eldest Child of the Nation's Commerce : The *Silk* Trade is a Foster-Child taken into the Family, made useful and meriting to be encouraged, but always with a Subserviency to the Good of the Heir.

If the *Turky* Merchants drive any considerable Trade to *France* with raw *Silk*, whether from *England* by Re-Exportations, or from the *Levant* directly; the *Silk* they carry, it is allowed, must be the Product of *English Manufactures*; so that by that Method, not only our own *Silks*, but, even the *French Silks* also, as to the Materials they are made of, are the Product and Return of the *English Woollen Manufactures*. The next Difference is the Workmanship, which lies thus; that one is perform'd by the *French*, whom we ought to have no Regard to in Trade; the other is perform'd by our own People, whom we ought to support.

But granting this; if on the other hand, a Bale of wrought *Silks* should be brought from *France*, bought there with a Bale or Bales of *Spanish Cloth*, or other *Woollen Goods*, it is easy to prove that it is more our Interest to bring over that Bale of wrought *Silk*; and that the said wrought *Silks* are more our own *Manufacture*, than if they had been wrought in *Spittle-Fields*; because the *Woollen Manufactures* which were first sent to *Turky* to purchase the raw *Silk*, which this Bale of *Silks* was wrought from, and the *Spanish Cloths* or other *Woollen Goods* sent to *France* to purchase the said *Silks*, when

when wrought, not only consumed the Growth of England, but employed above Sixteen times the Number of People in their making, &c. more than the Bale of wrought Silks would have done, if they had been made in *Spittle-Fields*.

On the other hand, this implies no Danger at all to the *English Manufactures of Silk*, because tho' the Humours and Fancies of some expensive People may run them upon buying Foreign wrought Silks, yet while the high Duties here remain as they are to do by the Treaty, the Difference of Price will be always such as will lessen the Demand of Foreign Silks, restrain the Humour aforesaid to a few People, and preserve the Bulk of the *Manufacture* in our hands.

It is objected by some, That the Difference is not sufficient; that notwithstanding 12*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* to be paid upon the Importation for every 20 Pound Weight of wrought Silks, yet that the *French* will bring in their Silks. But this amounts to no more than this (viz.) That they will bring in some few: Which is what as above, may be to our Advantage. But they will not pretend, that the Difference of the said Duty shall not lessen that Importation, and reduce it to a small Quantity, and that the Gross of the Trade shall remain in our own hands.

The Substance of the Petitions of the *Silk Weavers*, and of others who pretend to appear in their Behalf, is in short this, That the Importation of *French* wrought Silks may be prevented: The Pretence to make their Petitioning rational, is the Danger, they say appears, that *French* wrought Silks will now, by Virtue of the Treaty of Commerce, be imported in great Quantities into *Britain*, and the *French* being able to under-work us, will also Under-sell us, and the Weavers thereby be ruin'd.

What Foundation there is to support these Things, will appear, upon making a few Enquiries into matters of Fact; and some just Calculation of the Proportions of one to the other.

The Affairs of the high Duties upon wrought Silks Imported, is given in Answer to the *Weavers*, and seems to make their Apprehensions appear very irrational: Above 31*s.* per Pound Duty on the Importation must be paid upon *Alamodes* and *Lustrings*, and above 12*s.* per Pound upon all other wrought Silks; except *Italian Silks* Imported in *English Ships*, which pay Duty 10*s.* 6*d.*

The Force of Reason prevailed in the first, and the *Weavers* have given it up, owning at the Bar of the *House of Commons*, that the Difference is sufficient in the *Alamodes* and *Lustrings*, and that the *French* can do them no harm there; but it seems they think 12*s.* or 10*s.* 6*d.* per pound too little upon the other wrought Silks: But they either did not know, or omitted to take notice, that the Raw Silk which those *French* Goods are made of, pays Sixteen *Livres* per pound Duty at the first Importation into *France*; that the wrought Silks, when shipp'd again to be brought hither, pay 5*l.* per Cent. Custom *ad Valorem* upon their Exportation, both by the Tariff of 1664; and that the other Charges, such as Transportation by Land-Carriage to the Ports they are shipp'd at, Commission for Buying, Freight, *Risque* of the Sea, &c. cannot be so little as 5 per Cent. more. So that here is about 12 per Cent. more upon the Value of the Goods to be added to the Difference of 12*s.* or 10*s.* 6*d.* per pound; all which put together, makes such a Weight upon the Foreign wrought Silks, and gives such an Advantage to the *English Weavers*, that it is wonderful to think they should complain.

To add to the Conviction of these Things, it shall be a little examin'd, what effect this Difference has already had upon the *Silk Trade*; from whence may be Estimated some thing of what may be expected for the time to come.

The *Weavers* said Themselves, at the Committee of the *House of Commons*, that they make to the Value of Three hundred thousand Pounds every Year, in *Black Silks* only; whether it be Truth or not, is not easy to be examined: But in this Case, if they allow it, we are not to question it, for if it be an Error, it is against themselves; their

Quantity

Quantity of other *Silks* they spake of as prodigiously great. It cannot be amiss to observe then, what Quantity of Foreign wrought *Silks* have been imported here from all parts of *Europe*, under our high *Duties*, and see what Proportion they bear to the Quantity which these People say they make at Home, whether these Foreign wrought *Silks* have been *French* or no, is not the Case; The *Duties* are near the same; and as they are Imported from Countries to which *France* had an open Trade, it is not improbable many *French Silks* have been among them, and if more has not come in, the Difference made by the *Duties* have been the apparent and only Reason, and the same Reason must hold good still, as long as the same *Duties* remain.

An Account of the Quantities of wrought Silks Imported Annually from all Parts of Europe, distinguishing the Countries, viz.

The several Countries and Species:	From Christ- mas 1707, To Christmas 1708.	To Christmas 1709	To Christmas 1710.	Total of the Three Years.
	L.	L.	L.	L.
<i>Germany</i> — <i>Dutch</i> wrought.	—	393	—	393
— <i>Italian</i> wrought.	1517	1419	551 ¹ ₂	3487 ¹ ₂
<i>Holland</i> — <i>Dutch</i> wrought.	5884	4483	5885 ³ ₄	16252 ³ ₄
— <i>Italian</i> wrought.	2567 ¹ ₂	1813 ³ ₄	1519 ¹ ₂	5940 ³ ₄
<i>Italy</i> — <i>Italian</i> wrought.	8453	6084 ¹ ₂	6372 ¹ ₄	20909 ¹ ₄
<i>Spain</i> — <i>Spanish</i> wrought.	—	23	16	39
— <i>Italian</i> wrought.	—	—	299 ¹ ₂	299 ¹ ₂
<i>Streights</i> — <i>Italian</i> wrought.	1357	621	110 ¹ ₂	2088 ¹ ₂
<i>Turky</i> — <i>Turky</i> wrought.	14	309	152 ¹ ₂	475 ¹ ₂
<i>Venice</i> — <i>Italian</i> wrought.	—	6	—	6
Total of the Three Years. —				49892 ¹ ₄

All that can be alledged against this is, to beg the *Question* and say, *That There will be more Imported now*; but before that can be allowed, they should shew a good Reason why more was not Imported in these Years above stated, being the Quantity from *Italy* was always much greater, before the raising the *Duties* here; and that Reason which is good for preventing the Importation from *Italy*, will be good for preventing it from any other Country.

What has been said against the Reason of this, is so little to the Purpose, and with such little Force, that it is worth no Notice, the Facts are so clearly made out, that they amount even to Demonstration: The high *Duties* have effectually check'd the importation of wrought *Silks*, and will do so still. If the *French* had their *raw Silks* cheaper than we have it, how comes it to pass, that so much weight has been put upon the *Levant Company's* obtaining a Liberty of Exporting *Raw Silk* from *England* to *France*? which is obtain'd for them by the *Treaty*, and which the Company are now fully satisfied, is settled to their advantage. If the *French* had *raw Silks* cheaper than the *English*, it would be absurd to spake of our sending *raw Silks* from *England* to *France*. Goods

are shipped from Port to Port, to mend their Market, not to lessen their Value; if our Merchants did not advance the Price, they would never send their Goods abroad.

Not only the *French* have not their raw *Silk* cheaper than *England*; but on the contrary, *England* has their raw *Silks* cheaper than all the World; those Countries excepted, who have it of their own; and this will appear, by the great Quantity of raw *Silk* Exported from *England* to other Countries; as also of *Mohair Yarn*, which is equally concern'd in the Argument; and the following Abstract of One Year may give a Specimen.

An Account of Raw Silk and Mohair-Yarn, Exported into Foreign Parts from Christmas 1709, to Christmas 1710. Viz.

Raw Silk
Pounds weight
59,995.

Mohair-Yarn
Pounds weight
67,769.

It would be an unaccountable Trade, if it should be true, that other Nations had *Raw Silk* cheaper than we have it, when at the same time they should buy such Quantities of it every Year from us.

If any Nation in the World can have *Raw Silk* cheaper than *England*, *Italy* may be thought to be the Place, because they have great Quantities (*Sicily* included) of *Silks* of their own Growth. It will be hard to assign a Reason why *Italy*, who have *Silk* of their own, and with whom our Trade has been always open, should by our high Duties be obstructed from sending their wrought *Silks* to *England*, and *France*, who buy great Quantities of *Silk* from us, should not.

As the like Arts have been made use of to possess the People with an Opinion, that the Interest of *Britain* has been neglected with respect to the *Portugal* Trade, which were before employ'd in that of the *French*; so it will easily be made appear, it has been done with the like Weakness, and 'tis hop'd it shall be with the like Success.

It is alledged, That the Treaty with *France*, and the Treaty formerly made with *Portugal*, and now subsisting, are inconsistent with one another; That the Effect of the Treaty with *France* will be the lessening the Importation of *Portugal* Wines, by Lowering the Duties on the *French*; that this will lessen the Consumption of our *Woollen Manufactures* in *Portugal*, that our Trade there will be entirely lost by a Prohibition of all our *Woollen Manufactures* in *Portugal* as it was before the War: And the like.

It is needful to go back and look into the former State of the *Portugal* Trade, before the late Treaty, and enquire into the Nature and Reason of the Alterations, Additions and Encreases, which have been Accidents to that Trade, and which have brought it from what it was, to what it now is; in which, if the Causes assign'd for it's Encrease are mistaken, the Notions we entertain of such and such things endangering its Decrease, will appear equally groundless.

Two general and Vulgar Errors, or Mistakes, are entertained among us relating to the first part of the *Portugal* Trade; (viz) what it was before the Treaty with *Portugal*; and two more relating to what it now is, or will be by reason of the Peace. The Mistakes about what it was, are (1) That the *Portuguese* had prohibited all our *Woollen Manufactures*. (2) That the Encrease of our Trade or Export to *Portugal*, was occasioned by, and depended upon the Encrease of our Demand for Their Wines. Our Mistakes about what the *Portugal* Trade is now, or is like to be, are, (1) That upon our reducing the Duties of *French* Wine by the Treaty of Commerce with *France* to an Equality with the *Portuguese* Wines, the Wine Trade from *Portugal* will be ruined, and we shall import no more.

and

(2) That upon this, the *Portuguese* will immediately prohibit our *Woollen Manufactures*; and so that great Trade which it is alledged, tho' falsely too, Exports two Millions Yearly in the *Growth and Manufacture of Great-Britain*, will be lost.

If every one of these may be clearly proved to be Mistakes, and that neither the things suggested, or the Consequences drawn from them, can be supported by Truth or Reason, then all our Uneasiness about this *Portugal Trade*; will appear causeless and ill grounded. To do this, there needs no more than to state Matters of Fact; and give such Proofs of every thing as the Case will admit.

1. That all our *Woollen Manufactures* were Prohibited before the War, is a Mistake; and truly this is a Mistake of such a Nature, so obvious, and so easy to be confuted, that it is wonderful it should be expected by any body to do their Arguments any Service. It is well known upon the Exchange, and no *Portugal Merchants* of any long standing, can be ignorant that the Prohibition was ONLY of our *Medley Cloths*, which were forbidden not only to be imported there, but to be worn; the Reasons whereof also were assigned, (viz.) Not that they set about the making them there, as some alledged, but because they found their People forward to run into the *French* way of Clothing and Dressing themselves, which the Court for many Reasons thought fit to prevent. But no Man who has any competent Knowledge of the *Portugal Trade*, will pretend that the *Bays, Says, Perpets, Serges, Stuffs, Stockings, Cottons, Plains, Kerseys, &c.* which were always the Gross of the *English* Exportations to *Portugal*, were ever under any Prohibition there, or any other of our *Woollen Manufactures*, the *Woollen Cloths* as above only excepted.

That what is said here may, as it is Resolved all things in this Paper shall, carry it's Evidence along with it, the Words of the late Treaty with *Portugal* may be produced for Proof: In the Second Articles after the Proportion between the Customs of *Portuguese Wines* and the Custom of *French Wines* is settled, follow these Words; *Butt if this Abatement of Customs as is presumed to be made, shall be after any manner prejudiced or Abolished, shall be just and lawful for his Sacred Royal Majesty of Portugal, again to forbid the WOOLLEN CLOTHS.*

From hence may be noted also, that *this part* of the Agreement was not so absolutely and unalterably laid down, as an Essential of the Treaty between *England* and *Portugal*, without which the Peace of the two Nations could not subsist, but Provision was expressly made in the very Article, that if it should be ABOLISHED, yet the Peace should remain entire; only the King of *Portugal* would then be at Liberty if he thought fit, to make himself Amends upon *England*, by prohibiting the *English WOOLLEN CLOTHS*.

The next vulgar Error, or Mistake, which we are led into about the *Portugal Trade*, is, that the Encrease of our Exports of the *Woollen Manufactures* of *Great Britain* to *Portugal*, is occasion'd by, and depends upon the Encrease of our Demand for their Wines: This, however absurd, and in its Nature contrary to the Truth of Fact, is the thing on which the Argument is made to turn; from which they would infer, that as our Demand for *Portugal Wine* decreased, so will their Demand for our *Manufactures* decline: And in short, that if by the coming in of *French Wines*, the *Portugal Wine* shall be wholly left off, as they vainly suggest, so will also the Demand for our *Woollen Manufactures* in *Portugal* cease, and that Trade be lost.

The People who argue thus, confute themselves in their own Calculations: For First to magnify the *Portugal Trade*, they tell us that we export thither Annually the Value of Two Millions Sterling, most of it in the *Woollen Manufactures* of *Great Britain* against this, give them leave to make their own Estimates of the *Wine* we Import from thence, and take the largest Year and the highest Price they can reasonably suppose, the Quantity will not amount to above 8 or 9000 Ton, which Account there will

will in the pursuit of this Article, appear Reason to make great Abatement of too; but were it so, and account the Wines prime Cost one with another, at 15*l.* per Ton, or, to please them, at 20*l.* per Ton, which is much above the true Cost in Portugal, they will not amount to 200,000*l.* which by their own Account, is less than one Tenth part of the Demand for our Manufactures. This will very ill make it out that their Demand for our Manufactures is occasion'd by, and depends upon our Demand for their Wines; by which they must make it appear, that the Nine parts of the Trade depend upon the Tenth, and the greater is occasioned by the less, which is an Absurdity in the very Nature of the thing.

But the matter of Fact is evident, and known to all that have any tolerable Knowledge of the Portugal Trade, (viz.) That the Encrease of the Trade to Portugal, has been occasion'd by the Discovery within these few Years of the Gold Mines of St. Paul in the Brazils, by which an immense Treasure is gain'd yearly to the Portuguese Nation, as well as to their King; that by this means the People in Brazil are so increas'd in Wealth, and the Trade to Brazil are so increased as a Consequence, that the Fleets which about twelve Years ago, were usually Twenty-three to Twenty-Eight Sail of Ships from Lisbon to Brazil, are now Seventy, Eighty, to a hundred Sail, and the Exports of English Goods to Portugal are increased in Proportion.

This is the true and the only Reason of the Encrease of their Demand for English Manufactures; and this has no more Dependence upon, or is occasion'd by our Demand for their Wines, than it depends upon any thing that has no Relation at all to it.

It is very strange to find the Opposers of any Argument lay the whole Stress and Weight of what they have to say upon any thing which they are not very sure they can support the Truth of. But it is perfectly surprizing to see Men value themselves and their Cause upon Accounts and Calculations which are fraudulent and erroneous, known by Themselves to be so, and which they might be sure, in an Age like this, when Men take nothing upon Trust, would by inquiring Heads be soon detected and exposed.

Nothing of this kind can be more wonderful, than what we see practis'd just now by some People, in handing about a Paper call'd, *A SCHEME of the Trade between England and France*, in order to make the Trade between England and France look with an Aspect to please them, and to answer all the Romantick things they have said of it; which Paper or SCHEME, was Printed in 1674, and said to be Sign'd by several eminent Merchants of the City of London.

Something might be said to the Design of that Paper, when it was first published, and to the Persons who Sign'd it (viz.) That it was Calculated for a Design then on foot, to expose the Publick Management, and divide the People against the Court.

It may be proper then for the detecting the Fraud of this Scheme, to enter into an Examination of some of the Particulars wherein it differs from the true Account of that Year; which shall be done by giving a brief Abstract of the said Scheme, and likewise of the true Account from the Custom House, as it is now laid before the Honourable House of Commons by the Commissioners.

By both which it will appear, that the Design of this Paper, call'd *A SCHEME*, was then, and the making it publick is now, to lessen in the publick Opinion the Value of our Exportations to France, and to encrease or heighten the Value of our Importations from France; a Design in it self dishonest, but much more so from the manner of doing it, as will appear by what follows.

Our Exportations to France from Michaelmas to Michaelmas 1668-9, are made by the Scheme to amount to *l.* 171, 021. 06. 08, and all the species of Goods are restrated to these few, (viz.) Woollen Cloths, Dozens, Kerseys, Rashes, Pennystones, Cottons, Flannels, Hose, Bays, Stuffs, Serges, and Perpets, with some Petticoats, which are Crowded together at the Value of 20000 *l.*

Two Observations shall contain what is sufficient to say to this part of it, and nothing can be desired to expose it more.

1. That here is not half of the Species of Goods named which are every Year Exported to *France*, and which, as appears by the *Custom-house* Books were actually Exported to *France* that Year.

2. That of the Species of Goods which they have named, they have not set down the true Quantities which were really Exported to *France* that very Year.

These are such Tokens of a design'd *Collusion* and *Prevarication*, that nothing of that kind can be more corrupt.

But to descend to a few *Particulars* of this *Fraud*, that the People may see in how gross a manner they are Imposed upon.

1. Take a few of the Articles mention'd by the *SCHEME* of Goods Exported to *France*, 1668-9, as aforesaid, and when Compared with the real Entries of that Year in the *Custom-House* Books, from the Port of *London*, according to the Account given in by the Commissioners, and now lying before the House of Commons.

And any one, upon Casting up the following *Particulars*, will see to what a Magnitude this Part will amount.

The Difference stands thus :

Exported as by the Scheme.		Really Exported as by the <i>Custom-House</i> Books.	
Spanish Cloths	829		2049
Long Cloths	112		349
Short Cloths	42		54
Northern Dozens Double	97		305
Ditto single	69		192
Devon Dozens and Cloth Rashes	186		339
Pennystones	6		161
Kerseys	3585		5607
Norwich Stuffs	344		1701
Serges and Perpets	5564		7581

2. Add to this, That to lessen the Appearance of our Trade to *France*, they have wholly omitted all the *Fish*, such as *Herrings*, *Pilchards*, *Salmon*, and *White Fish*; all our *Plantation Goods*, and all the Goods of other Countries Resexported by us to *France*; of which the Quantities Exported that very Year were very great and are so every Year : The *Particulars* are too long to set down here, but may be guess'd at by these few.

Cotten, Wool, and Yarn	67695 l.
Goats Hair or Wooll	50977
Indico	8481
Sugar Brown	608000
Pepper	224859
Tobacco	160818
Callicoes	7995 Pieces
Oyl	203 Ton
Drugs	68309 l.

Besides prodigious Quantities of other Goods Exported to *France* that Year; as may be seen by the said account from the *Custom-House*, now lying before the House of Commons.

The

The remaining *Particulars* are so many, as makes it plain, that the Value of our Exports to *France* for that Year exceeded the Value of our Importations from *France* very considerably, as by the *Custom-House Books* will appear.

The Errors in the Account of the Importations, are no less unfairly Stated than these, and the Fraud is extended to a much greater Value; Nay, even the manner of Stating it, discovers a design of Imposing upon the Publick. For First the Export is confined to the Port of *London*, only with an allowance of one Third more for the out Ports, whereas the Import is said to be for the whole Kingdom, let them take it which way they Please.

If their Imports are for the Ports of *London* only, then they have committed a Fraud in the Quantities to the Value of above 721,796 Pounds, as will be prov'd by the *Custom-House Books*.

If their Imports take in the whole Kingdom, then they have committed two Frauds instead of one (1.) In the Quantities: And (2.) In offering to state the Debtor side of the Account upon the Port of *London*, with a Guess at one Third more of the Out-Ports, AGAINST all that they say was Imported in the whole Kingdom.

If they had design'd a fair and just Account, They ought to have stated the Exports and Imports exactly for the Port of *London*, and have made the Addition of one Third for the out Ports equal to both sides; and have stated both sides upon the Imports and Exports of the whole Kingdom; For if the Exports exceed the Imports for the Port of *London* only, as appears by the *Custom-House Books*: It would have been much more so for the Out-Ports, because many of our Out-Ports, which lye in or near those Countries where the *Woollen Manufactures* are made, *Fish* cured, &c. Export much greater Quantities to *France*, than they could consume the Value of in *French Goods*, as *Exeter*, *Colchester*, *Tarmouth*, and many other Ports.

But the Prevarications are yet more gross, and the Value greater; As one part makes the Exportations to *France* seem less; so the other as dexterously makes the Importations from *France* seem more: Nor will their making a Guess or Wholesale Allowance of one Third for the Out-Ports on one side answer for it, unless they had either made the same allowance serve on both sides, or extended the Account to the same period of Time on both sides without it; but acting fairly did not seem to suit the Design.

Those who would support the Paper call'd *A Scheme*, produce a Paper, said to be Signed by the Farmers of the Customs, containing an Account of the Importations of *Wines*, *Brandies*, and *Linnen* from *France*, from *Michaelmas* 1667, to *Michaelmas* 1669, which they make to be very large, and from whence they would argue, that one half thereof must be the Rule of the Year 1669. Had this been a meer Guess, or had it been at any other time, the Calculation might have been less suspected. But there lies so just an Exception against the Year 1667, and it was so well known to them, that it cannot be any thing but a meer Design.

It is well known, the Plague had in the Year 1665 put an universal stop to all Trade, except such as Necessity forc'd the People to, for meer Provisions. The next Year the Fire of *London* happen'd; and as the Fire began near the water side, and among the Warehouses and Cellars of the Merchants, the Quantities of *Wines* as well as of other Goods which were spoil'd or destroy'd, were very great. Add to this a War with *France* and *Holland*; by which the Trade with both was stop'd, and which War was not ended till the Treaty at *Breda* in July 1667.

These Things might well suppose *England* to be so Exhausted of *French Goods*, as that the Importation of the next Year, (viz.) 1667, must be prodigious great; and no rational Judgment can be made of the Trade to or from *France* by the Accounts of that Year. This is farther demonstrated by the Article of the *Brandies* which the Account of

of the Farmers aforesaid makes for the said Two Years to be but 3775 Ton. But by an Account of the same Farmers for the last Five Quarters of the said two Years, (viz.) from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, the whole Quantity of Brandy Imported, amounts to no more than 680 Ton; and yet the *SCHEME* affirms, there was 4000 Ton of Brandy Imported from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669. And this is offer'd as one undeniable Evidence of the Fraud of that *SCHEME*.

There may be a parallel Case found out to illustrate this, and that is of the Exportation of Lead from *England* to *France* in the Year 1662, which amounts to, as by the *Custom-House* Books, a most prodigious and unusual Quantity (viz.) From *Michaelmas* 1662, to *Michaelmas* 1663, there was Exported from *England* to *France*, 21,757 Fodder of Lead, which at 12 l. per Fodder, as the *Scheme* allows the Price to be, amounts to 261,084 l. It would be acknowledged very unfair, that this should be given in as an Article of our usual Export of Lead to *France*; for, as an extraordinary Year is no just Rule to take a Medium of Calculation from, so no more is the Year 1667, to be taken as a proper time to Calculate our Importation of Wine from *France*; the preceding Accidents of a Plague, the Fire, and the War, joining together to make the Demand for Wines that Year extraordinary great:

Perhaps it is a Fate upon us, that the Inconveniencies and Ill-Consequences of rejecting a Trade so evidently Beneficial to *England*, must be discovered by our Experience, and must be felt before they will be known; in which Case this Paper will have Occasion not only to mention those Inconveniencies before hand, but to remind you of them when they happen.

This Paper shall also, in its Course, be adapted to the several Trading Counties and Towns of *Great Britain*, to make appear, that now the War is ended, all the Goods and Commodities of *France* may be Imported into this Kingdom, especially such as are to be Re-exported, as *Brandies*, *Linens*, *Silks*, *Paper*, *Laces*, &c. Since upon such Re-exportation all the additional Duties are drawn back; when at the same time not one Yard of the *Woollen Manufacture* of *Great Britain*, which are all prohibited in *France*, nor of our *Fish* and other material Commodities, can be Imported into *France*, the Articles not being made effectual.

The Instances of this, shall be hereafter especially applyed to the particular Trading places of *Great Britain*, who will thereby be able to judge whether this is not the true State of their Case, and whether the *Dutch* or *Flemings* will now have the Importation of our *Manufactures* into *France*, as they have had for above 20 Years last past, and reserve to themselves the *Dressing*, *Dying* and *Finishing* of those Goods; whereby the *Manufacturers* of *Great Britain* will become Slaves to Foreigners, who will either set their own Price upon our *Manufactures*, or set up *Fabricks* of their own in Imitation of them, all which might have been avoided, by having an open and direct Trade with *France*.

This Paper shall not suggest so much Unhappiness to *Great Britain*, whose general Good it is design'd to promote, as to propose that the Articles of *Commerce* shall not in time to come be farther consider'd. The Parliament of *Britain* who are the true Judges of their Countries Good, cannot be supposed to omit any thing that shall be apparently for the publick Advantage; and therefore when it shall appear to them which we will not question, that these Articles are proper to be Re-consider'd, they will no doubt, act therein, as Reason and Justice requires.

In the meantime, seeing we are to carry on our Trade without the Advantages which were expected from the *Treaty*, let us enquire upon what Terms we are to carry it on, and how we shall Trade with *France* for the time coming.

The *Tariff* of 1664 is now no more to be mentioned in this Affair: The low Duties which our Goods would have paid in *France*, are out of the Question. The *Edict* of 1701 must now be the Rule of our Trade in *France*: And that this may be understood

derstood without any Difficulty, and be as little subject to Mistakes as possible, the Edict itself may be its own Expofitor; of which the following is a faithful Abstract.

An Arrest of the King's-Council of State, containing a Rule for the Importation of Goods and Merchandizes of the Manufactures of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging.
September 6th, 1701.

HIS Majesty continuing his Application for the Profit and Advantage of his Subjects in matters of Trade, &c. and being in his Council, has forbidden and prohibited, and does hereby Forbid and Prohibit, from the Day of the publication of these presents, the Importation into this Kingdom of the several Merchandizes hereunder specified, being of the Growth and Manufactures of England, Scotland, and Ireland, &c. whither coming directly, or from other Countries, on the Penalty of Confiscation of the Goods and of the Ships bringing them, of whatever Nation they are, and of 3000 Livres Fine upon the Merchants who shall Receive or Import them.

All sorts of Stockings, and Caps of Wooll, Silk or Thread, whither Knit or Woven.

All sorts of Wollen Cloths, Ratines, Bays, Serges, Norwich Stuffs, Camlets, Mohairs, Tafaties, Plush, or other Stuffs, whither of Wooll, Silk or Hair, or mingled with Wooll, Silk, Hair, Thread, or Cotton.

All sorts of Hats, of what sort, or of what Materials soever they are made.

All sorts of Leather, Tann'd, Curry'd or Dress'd.

All sorts of Gloves, all sorts of Buttons, and Ribbands, whither of Silk, Gimp, Worsted, Thread, or of any thing else: All sorts of Cutlers, Ironmongers, or Braffiers Wares;

All Watches, Pendulums, and other kinds of Clockwork.

All sorts of Wines and Liquors, All sorts of Tin, Wrought or Unwrought.

All sorts of Lead, whither in Pigs or otherwise.

Also His Majesty forbids, and prohibits all Haberdashery, Drugs, and Spices, to be brought into any part of his Dominions, from England, Scotland, or Ireland, or the Dominions thereto belonging, or from any other Countries in English Shipping.

His Majesty Ordains and Appoints also, that the particular Goods hereunder specified coming from the said Countries of England, Scotland, or Ireland or the Dominions thereunto belonging, in whatsoever Ships or Vessels they shall come, upon their Importation into his Majesty's Dominions, shall pay the following Duties, That is to say,

	Liv. Sol.		Liv. Sol.
Rock Allum, per C. weight.	10. 00	Wooll, per C. weight	02. 00
Glass Bottles, double or single, per C.	20. 00	Grindstones for Smiths, per Dozen	15. 00
English Beer, per Bottle	00. 10	Dried Codfish, per C. weight	08. 00
Bees-Wax, Yellow, per C.	05. 00	Ox-Bones, per Thousand	03. 00
Ditto, White, per C.	20. 00	Skins of all sorts not Tann'd, per C. weight	100. 00
Coals from England, per Barrel	01. 10	Calf Skins, per Dozen	12. 00
Flesh Salted, vocat Beef, per C.	05. 00	Raw Hides, per Dozen	30. 00
Glue, per C.	20. 00	Cows Hair, per C. weight	02. 00
Horses of 90 Liv. Value, and under, each Horse	10. 00	Salmon Salted from Ireland or Scotland, per 8 Barrels	40. 00
Ditto of 90 Liv. Value and upward, each	20. 00	Tallow of all sorts, per C. Weight	01. 10
Horns Round or in Leaves, per C. weight	01. 10	Fumps, per C.	06. 00
Copperas, per C.	03. 00	Tapisry and Turkey Work for Chairs, &c. 50 per Cent. ad Valorem.	
Leather of England or Ireland per Piece	10. 00	Linen Cloth of all sorts, 50 per Cent. ad Valorem.	
Crystal of all kinds, per C.	60. 00	Drinking-Glass, Decanters, and all other sorts of Glass Wares, p. C. Wt.	20. 00
Elephants Teeth, per C.	06. 00		
Sheers for Clothiers, per Pair	03. 00		
Herrings, per Last of 12 Barrels	80. 00		

This

This is a strict View of the present State of the *English Commerce* in *France*, and these are but part of the Burthens and Incumbrances of our Trade there, which her Majesty, by the *Treaty of Commerce* with *France*, and in her just Concern for the good of her Kingdoms, had procured to have her Subjects delivered from; But the Articles being not made Effectual, they are now to continue, so that our Trade is to remain in general prohibited there, till some Act shall be passed here, to render Effectual the Provisions made for a Freedom of Commerce, and till Two Months after, all which time the Profits of an advantageous Trade are lost to this Nation.

It is also to be observed, that while all these high Duties and Prohibitions remain upon our Trade into *France*, most of the *French Goods* are still at Liberty to be Imported here, paying the high Duties; the Case of which will be, that for all of those which may be Re-exported whither to our Plantations, the *Spanish West-Indies*, or other Parts, those high Duties will be all drawn back, and the *French Goods* be so far prejudicial to our *Manufactures* without our having any Share of the Advantage from the Trade to *France*.

In like manner, the *Wines* and *Brandies* which may be used at Sea, or in Foreign Parts, will draw back all the high Duties; and for the other part (viz) the Home Consumption, they will be brought in as *Spanish* and *Portugal Wines* and *Brandies* or else smuggled upon the Coast; The *Silks*, *Linnen*, *Paper*, &c. will come in as *Dutch* and *Blommish*; by which means the *French* will have the Benefit of the Peace as to their Part of the Trade, and *Britain* will be entirely shut out, or be subservient to Foreigners, who shall carry it on for their own Benefit, as they have done for 20 Years last past. There have been divers Representations made to the King of *France* himself, by his own Subjects, as well *Merchants* and *Manufacturers* as others, all against the *Treaty of Commerce* with *Great Britain*, and especially against the Eighth and Ninth Articles, the same which our People are offended with; Complaining, and with great Earnestness too, against admitting the *English Woollen Manufactures* into *France* upon the low Duties of 1664, as what will be ruinous to the *Manufactures* set up with so great Success in *France*; For that the *English* will now bring in all their *Woollen Manufactures* upon them, in such great Quantities, that those made in *Languedoc*, in *Porton*, in *Picardy*, and other Places will be Ruined; That the *English* make those Goods so much better than they can be made in *France*, and they will be so Cheap, the high Duties which his Majesty had laid on, not so much to enrich his Treasury, as to encourage the Industry of his own Subjects, being taken off, even as far back as the *Tariff* of 1664, that the *French Goods* will find no Sale; but that the *English Goods* will in proportion to their Goodness, be sold much cheaper than any can be made in *France*. Farther, these Representations go on in very pressing, tho' humble Terms, it being spoken to their King, to Complain, that an open Trade with *England* will always be to the great Damage and Loss of the *French*; for, say they, the *French Nation* has very few Goods to send to the *English*, but whereof other Nations have the like kinds, and do also Import the same into *England*; But the *English* have divers Goods to send to *France*, of which no other Nation can send the like; That is to say, *Lead*, *Tin*, *Leather*, *Allum*, *Coal*, *Pilchards*, *Salmen*, and several other kinds; whereas the *Wines* of *France* are supplied to the *English* by *Portugal*, the *Brandy* by *Spain*, the *Wrought Silks* by *Genoa* and the *Dutchy of Milan*, the *Fruits* and *Perfumes* by *Italy*, and the *Linen* and *Paper* by *Hamburgh* and *Holland*.

For these Reasons they represent, that the *Treaty of Commerce* with *Great Britain*, as it is now fixed, would be Distructive, and an entire Ruin to the Trade of the *French Nation*; concluding, that *France* can never recover it's Wealth and Greatness, if such a *Treaty of Commerce* should be permitted to take place, and unless some way be found out to continue the high Duties, and thereby to keep out the *English Manufactures* from being permitted to come into *France*. These

These Representations seem to rally the English, for what they call a Stupidity incredible, that they prohibit Trading with France, at the beginning of the first War, By which (say they) the Manufactures of France, have arrived to a great Height, which it was impossible should have been, if the English Woollen Manufactures had continu'd to have been sent into France; and insinuate, that it should have been the Most Christian King, not the late King William, who should have caused a Prohibition of Trade to have been publish'd; for that the English Trade was the only Destructive thing to the Industry of the French Nation.

These Arguments are so pungent, and carry with them so much Weight, that it makes a most pointed Salyre upon the French King, that he should not comply with their Desires; but it must be acknowledged, that if their Reasons are just on the French side, it will be hard to find that our Complaints of this Trade can be reasonable on the other side; for it is hardly Rational to suggest, that the Trade between these Two Nations can be to the Disadvantage and Loss on both sides.

Many Delusions have been spread about to amuse and deceive the People in this Matter of the Treaty of Commerce with France; some of which have been Detected and duly Exposed, and many who have been Deceived by them begin to recover their Judgments, and to find that the Treaty which they have been prevail'd upon to Reject and Contemn, is really a Foundation of the most advantageous Commerce that Britain can be engaged in; That the French must Trade with us under the most disadvantageous Conditions imaginable; That our Export will be easy to us, their Imports here hard and Loaden with Burthens to them; and we begin to see these People now repent the Opposition they have all along made to their Countries Good, and would undo what others have done if it was in their Power to do so.

But there are still Mistakes behind, which must be removed, and Objections which however they may be ill-grounded, yet require some Notice of them; as especially this (viz.) That there are but three Ports in France at which our Manufactures are admitted to be Imported, (viz.) St. Vallery on the Soame, Roan, and Bourdeaux. It is wonderful to reflect how much this prevails in the Minds of the People, considering it is evident that the limiting the Ports for Entry, concern only the two Species, (viz.) the Cloths and Cloth-Serges, which is plain by the Specifications of the Treaty, and not all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures. But as to all our other Woollen Manufactures, Bays, Says, Serges, Perpetts, Stuffs, Druggets, Dozens, Kerstles, Stockings, &c. All our Re-exported Goods, such as Cottons, Indicoes, Sugars, East-India and Turkey Goods, and all other, they are freely allow'd by the Treaty to be Imported into all the Ports of France; and before this Treaty, the said two species of Manufactures were confined to but Two Ports, (viz.) Calais, and St. Vallery on the same.

It has been said, that the Reason why the French Confined our said Woollen Manufactures to certain Ports for their Importations, was, that the Land Carriage and Local Duties of the said Goods should rise so high upon them, that the Price should thereby be made too great for the Buyer, and give the advantage to their own Manufactures. Let such People but look Back upon their Own Arguments, they are not only false in themselves, but inconsistent with one another; for if this were true, then it must be true also, that their own Manufactures stood in need of those Helps; that their own Manufactures were so Inferiour to the English that if the utmost Discouragements were not put upon the English Goods, the French Manufactures would not be sold, that the English Manufactures so excelled the French, in the real intrinick Value, that if these were admitted, tho' upon the hardest Terms to be Imported into France, yet they would gain Ground there; and to be brief, would Sell before the French, albeit the Difference made by the Burthen of Duties there, was at that time above 40 per Cent. and these things they will not allow, having on many Occasions published that the French Manufactures are as good as Ours, and if permitted to come into England, would ruin our
OWN.

But

But on the other hand, this suggestion cannot in general be True; for had it been so that the limiting the Importation of the *Woollen Manufactures* of Britain to a few certain Ports, was contriv'd to Load the said Goods with the farther Burthens of Land-carriage, &c. Why then should the Ports they were limited to, be chosen out upon the greatest Navigable Rivers in France, nearest to the Place where the Centre of their Trade lay, and where the chief Consumption of our *Manufactures* was to be expected. For Example; *Rouen* and *Bordeaux*. The City of *Rouen* lies on the River *Seine*, and is to *Paris* as *Gravesend* is to *London*: From thence the Navigation of the *Seine* conveys every thing by Water upon Five great Rivers, (viz.) by the *Oyse* and the *Aisne* into the Isle of France and the lower *Champain* to the City of *Rhimes*, the *Abetelois* and the Edge of the Dutchy of *Bar*; by the River *Maza* through the whole Province of *Champain*, by the *Tonne* into *Burgundy* and *Nivernois*, and by the River *Loyne* and the *Canal de Briare* into the great River *Loyre* to the Cities of *Orleans*, *Nevers*, *Blais*, *Tours*, *Angers*, &c. even down to the *Ocean*, and through the very Heart of France: Again the City of *Bordeaux* is the Centre of the *English Commerce* in France, and where the greatest Number of our Ships resort for the *Wine* and *Brandies* which are brought from thence, Therefore appointing *Bordeaux* as one of the Ports for the Import of our *Manufactures*, was rather making the Trade easy than difficult to the *English*, and so far from a design of making our Goods dear, and encreasing the Charges upon them, that it was rather giving Ease to it by opening that only Port to which the *English* could bring them upon the easiest Terms of *Freight*, and where the greatest Demand for those Goods was to be found; where the principal Consumption of them might be excepted, and where the greatest Convenience of *Ireland* Navigation was to be had, in order to convey the said *Manufactures* to all Parts of the Kingdom of France: For the City of *Bordeaux* stands on the *Garonne*, from whence they have a Navigation by other Rivers; (viz.) the *Dordonne* quite through *Perigott* and *Limosin* into *Auvergne*; by the River *Lot* through *Quercy* and *Rovergne* even to the *Severnes*, and by the Royal Canal from the City of *Toulouse* on the *Garonne* quite through the Province of *Languedoc* to *Narbonne*, and into the mediterranean Sea; supplying the whole Provinces of *Gascoign*, *Guienne*, and *Languedock* with *British Manufactures* by Water Carriage.

This rather seems to intimate to us, that the *French King* finding it convenient on other Accounts to limit the Importation of these Goods to certain Ports, yet appointed those Ports so, as that his Subjects might have the Goods brought with the greatest Ease and the least Charge that could be to those Markets, where the greatest Consumption of them was, and where the Principal Traders in those Goods were settled; who from thence supplied the whole Kingdom by the Convenience of Water-Carriage: As to the Reason of naming particular Ports and Places for the Importation of these Goods, it is known to those who are acquainted with the Affairs of France, That it was occasioned by the differing Circumstances of the Contracts with the Farmers, and was a thing practised in other Cases in France as well as in this of the *Woollen Manufactures*, as particularly the *Drugs* and *Spices* which are limited in almost the same manner.

Also this limiting the Importation of Goods to certain Ports, is not a new Practice or peculiar to France only; the like is done in *England*, particularly the *Alamodes* and *Lustrings*, are confined to the Port of *London*; and the Importation of *Wooll* from *Ireland* is limited to Three or Four Ports only, but however is so ordered, not that the *Irish Wooll* should by Reason of Land-Carriage be made dearer to our *Manufactures* than the *English*, in order to discourage the Importation of it; But for other particular Reasons, drawn from the Circumstances of the thing it self; and therefore the Towns to which the Importations of *Irish Wooll* is limited are such, as are not only nearest and most convenient by their Situation for the coming from *Ireland*, but nearest and most convenient to those parts of *England* where the *Manufacturers* live, who make use of *Irish Wooll*.

and are the principal Buyers and Consumers thereof; as *Muslin* for the *Serge-Makers* of *Tamworth*; as *Biddisford* or *Barnstable* for the *Serge-Makers* of *Bath*; *Tiverton*, &c. at *Liverpool* for the *Clothiers* of *Yorkshire* and *Lancashire*: And the like:

Had not the Convenience of the *Manufacturers* been consulted in this Limitation, but on the contrary, had it been contrived or appointed on purpose to add the Burthen and Expence of Land-Carriage to the Price of the *Wool*, *Bristol* might have been named, *Milford-Haven*, or any Port in *Wales*, which tho' lying as well for the Navigation of the *Irish Vessels*, would yet have greatly encreased the Price of the *Wool* to the *Manufacturers*, by the Charges of carrying it on Horseback after it was landed; in like manner had the King of *France* limited the Importation of the *English Manufactures* with Design, as it is alledged, to Enhance the Price by Land-Carriage, he would have chosen such Ports for their Importation as were most remote from those Parts, where the principal Consumptions of them was known to be, and most remote from the Conveniences of Water-Carriage: This was very easy for him to have done, had he named the Cities of *Rosbell* and *St. Mallo* for Example; instead of *Rouen* and *Bordeaux*, the Case had been quite altered, there being no River Navigable near them; and then it would have been difficult to have assigned any other Reason for such Limitation, than that of Discouraging and Burthening the Trade: But as it is now, there is no room for any Supposition of that kind:

Further it might be demanded why the *French King* should not rather lay still higher Duties on the said *Woollen Manufactures*, than study to raise their Price by the Difficulties of their Importation; the former being the readiest Method of Discouraging their Market, and which would at the same time have brought in some Gain to the Crown, which is an Article they are far from being forgetful of in *France*.

Much has been said in Discoursing on this Subject, about the Balance of the *French Trade* being against *England*: That the Balance formerly against *England* has been Disputed, and that with good Reason; the contrary in many Particulars evidently appearing; But that the Balance will be against *England* NOW, is too evident; for it is impossible to be otherwise, the Nature of the Trade will not permit it to be otherwise: The *French* will bring in great Quantities of their Goods here, of which some will always be consumed at home, what Price soever they cost; and all that we want for Re-Exportation, whether to our own Colonies or other Parts will go abroad, drawing back the high Duties, which, as it is alledged, are to hinder our Trading in them. So that still all our Foreign Commerce, so far as these Kind of Goods are Demanded, will be *French*.

Against this, it is demanded, how must Payment be made to all our Trade to *France* is in some Respect prohibited, as has been shewn by the Edit of 1701, published *MERCATOR* (No. 13.) and what is not prohibited is loaded with such high Duties, as are almost equal to a Prohibition: We have been told that we pay for all the Goods we buy in *France* with ready Money, whether we did or no BEFORE may be debated another time, but it is evident that we shall buy NOW; the Articles not being made Effectual, must be paid for with Money, or not paid for at all; for the *French* will take nothing of us. So that they having formerly shut the Door of Commerce against *England*, we have bolted it now on the wrong side, and will not suffer them to open it again, altho' they are willing to do it.

If the Balance of Trade by this means runs against *Britain*, which before always ran against *France*, we cannot blame them, but must blame our selves, who have been willing to have it so, and have so blamed our Party-Interest with our Trading-Interest, as to ruin the one, in order to carry on the other.

The Objection upon which all this Matter seem'd to turn, has been, that the *French* have NOW all kinds of *Woollen Manufactures* of their own making, and have no need of our Trade; this is carry'd such a Length by some, that they insist, that the

French

French make all the sorts of our *Woollen Manufactures* as good as the *English*, and much cheaper than they can be made here; that they are able not only to supply themselves but other Countries; nay all Countries says one Author; and *Britain* too, says another Author: But it would be ask'd of these warm People, *Why then do they so strictly and carefully Exclude, Prohibit, or Load with Duties, all the English Woollen Manufactures?* If their own are better and cheaper than the *English*, their Quality would be a Prohibition as effectual as an *Edict* or *Arrest du Conseil*, and much more, and other Prohibitions would be needless.

But whatever we are pleas'd to say, the *French* know better, and as they have good Reason to be most sensible of the Defects of their own *Manufactures*, so they are very careful to keep the *English* Goods out, that the Goodness of one against the Meanness of the other, may not be discovered by the Trade it self: Nothing can be a more undeniable Proof of the Mistake of those People who talk so warmly of the Goodness and Cheapness of the *French Manufactures*, than the *French King* laying such repeated Burthens upon the *English* Goods; and after this was done, and several times increased, yet, when the *Manufacturers* there found, that notwithstanding their high Duties and Burthens, the *English* Goods would be bought by their People, whatever they cost, being recommended so effectually by their own Worth and Goodness, that all the *French* could do in the meer way of Trade would be of no Signification to it, They Petitioned the *French King* to grant a Total Prohibition of *Woollen Manufactures*, which he did: And this was all done during a Time of Peace; so that the War is not the Reason of this Case, but the meer Nature of the Trade, and it is easy to be discovered that it had been to small Purpose to go about making *Woollen Manufactures* in *France*, if the *English Woollen Manufactures* were not effectually Prohibited.

Her Majesty, on the other hand, has so effectually secur'd to her Subjects all the Advantages of the *French* Trade, that she has not only obtain'd the Revocation of all that the King of *France* had been doing for 50 Years, for the Encouragement of his Subjects in the *Woollen Manufactures*, by which she gives her own People a full Opportunity to extend their Trade into all parts of *France* with Advantage, but on the contrary, has continued upon the *French* Importations hither, all those Inequalities and extraordinary Duties which were needful to exclude them from any prejudicial Excesses in *England* to the Disadvantage of her own People: By both which the Ballance of that Trade is effectually secur'd to be on the *English* side, and we are in a fair way to recover all the Injury done to our Commerce by the last impugnant Prohibitions:

Would these People turn the Tables and make this Case their own, what may we suppose they would say if the Queen of Great Britain had, in Her Majesty's Treaty of Commerce, Consented to take off the high Duties laid on the Importation of those *French Manufactures*, which our People have been Encouraged by those high Duties to make here, and given Permission by this New Treaty to the *French*, to Import the said Goods upon the low Duties, which the same Goods paid here before the Year, 1664. For Example, Should the Duties on *French Alamodes* and *Lustrings* have been reduced to 6s. per l. which they paid before the War, instead of 31s. 10d. which they are to pay now; should the Duties on *French Brandy*, which by this Treaty is to remain at above 51l. per Ton, have been reduced to 30s. as it was before the Revolution; May we not suppose the Distillers of Corn and Mollasses, the Weavers of *Alamodes* and *Lustrings*, and the Dealers under them all, would have made Representations and Complaints of their Trade being ruin'd and given up to the *French*, their Families Impoverish'd, &c. like as we find the *French* Merchants and *Manufactures* in *France* have done on their side to their King, and for which we must acknowledge they have very good Reason.

It is scarcely worth while to mention here, much less to give an Answer to a Report very Confidently spread about, and which some people are weak enough to take spread.

upon Trust; viz. That by the Treaty of Commerce, leave was to be given to Export our Wooll unwrought into France: But as it is certain, that such a Report is industriously spread about, where it is thought there is Ignorance enough to suffer so great a Delusion, it is reasonable to observe from it, what Endeavours are us'd by some among us, to Impose upon the people of this Nation in the grossest manner, for the carrying on other Designs, equally Destructive to the publick safety.

But to return to what was mention'd, viz. of the real abatement of Duties, which is obtain'd by this Treaty; it may be a profitable Explanation of the present Treaty of Commerce, and may prevent the prejudices which some Entertain against this Treaty, should a brief Account be given them of the Difference between the present State of our Trade with France, and what it has been at several times; when it has nevertheless been carried on by us to Advantage; and what it was to have been by the Treaty, or would have been, had the Articles been made Effectual: And as this shall be done in brief Tables, referring to the several Heads of our Exportation, as they now lye before us; so they may afterwards be brought down one by one, to the particular Trading Towns and Counties of Britain, where those Branches of our Manufactures are carried on;

To begin with our *Woollen Manufactures*, all which now stand Prohibited, and must do so till the said Articles are made Effectual, the following Table will shew what Duties are taken off by this Treaty, and upon what low Duties they would have been admitted into France by this Treaty, had it been made Effectual, as well as what Prohibitions and high Duties the Trade now labours under.

The following is an Account of several Goods and *Woollen Manufactures* of Great Britain, now Prohibited in France, the Time when the high Duties were laid upon them before the said Prohibition; with what they were to pay by the Tariff of, 1664. which was to take place, if the Eighth and Ninth Articles of the Treaty had been made Effectual.

	Anno 1701.	By the Tariff of 1664.		Anno 1687.	
		Liv.	Sol.	Liv.	Sol.
Double per Piece of 50 Ells.	Prohibited	15	00 60		00
Bays { Single per Piece of 25 Ells.	Prohibited	4	00 20		00
Minikin, Ditto.	Prohibited	Ditto.		Ditto.	
Flannel, per Piece of 26	Prohibited	6	00 24		00
Cottons, per C. Goods	Prohibited	12	00 20	per C. An. 1685.	
Kerseys, per Piece of 13	Prohibited	3	12 6		00
Fustians, per Piece of 12	Prohibited	1	15 4		00
Yorkshire, { Single	Prohibited	4	10 20		00
Dozens, { Double	Prohibited	9	00 40		00
If above 8 Livres per Ell Value, to pay				120	00
Mill'd Serges per P. of 15	Prohibited	10	00 30		00
Scots Plaiding 25	Prohibited	2	00 8		00
Silk Stockings, per Pair		0	15 2		00
Cloths per Piece of 25	Prohibited	The Duties of these Stated several Times before.			
Cloth-Serges, per Piece of 15	Prohibited				

They must be no *Manufacturers* themselves, nor much concern'd for those who are, or for the *Woollen Manufactures* of Britain in general, who can read this Table with-
out

not being sensible of the Disadvantage our Trade lyes under in the present situation of our Commerce with France : When they shall Read the Word *Prohibited* continually before every Article of our *Woollen Manufacture*, and shall remember, that for Twelve Years past, none of all those Goods have been admitted into France but by way of *Holland*; whereas very great Quantities of *Woollen Manufactures* were Yearly Exported thither before, besides other Goods of the Growth and Production of our own Country, or of our Plantations, which is the same thing, and ought so to be esteemed.

When the QUEEN, who always had the Good of Her Subjects, and the Prosperity of their Commerce at Her Heart, found it was in Her Power to open such a Door of Trade to Her People, on Terms so much to the Loss and Disadvantage of France, and so evidently to the Advantage of Her own Kingdoms; it could not but be with great Satisfaction, that Her Majesty gave in Charge to Her Ministers and Plenipotentiaries, to Conclude a Treaty, which took off all the Burthens and Prohibitions, which the Mistakes of former Years had brought upon the Trade, and by which Her Enemies were obliged to make deep Wounds in their own Trade, to comply with those Demands.

But, it must be very disobliging to the QUEEN, as well as very surprizing to her Faithful Subjects, to see in what manner some People receive, and how disingeniously they Continue all Her Majesty's Endeavours to shew Her affectionate Concern for the Welfare of Her Subjects, and the Prosperity of Their Commerce; as if that very Care, which Her Majesty has so Eminently express'd, for Their Good, was a Contrivance of Her and their Enemies, to betray us to the French, and to give up the British Interest in Trade, to the most dangerous Rivals they have in the World.

Certainly Mankind cannot be so far carried away with the stream of their Passions, as to deny this general Maxim; That nothing ought to be believed in such publick Debates as these, but what is proved. This Paper has from its beginning, taken this for a Rule, and therefore brings Authentick Proofs with it, of every Thing it says, yet these Men say it is all Lies; on the contrary, they bring no Proof at all of what they say, and yet they expect to be believed.

To shorten the Dispute, the MERCATOR shall as modestly as the Case will allow make a fair Challenge to all Opposers; which if they do not Answer, they can but ill justify any of their future Objections against the Truth of what is alledg'd in this Paper.

The Challenge is, That whereas they charge this Paper with Lying, they ought to descend to Particulars; and stating it truly, let the World know what ONE THING it is the MERCATOR has Affirm'd, Asserted, made Publick as Truth, which is not so. If this cannot be done, the charge of Lying will turn back upon them, with great Disadvantage to themselves.

One Condition only must be desir'd of them, (viz.) That they will not expect any thing should be taken upon Trust on one side more than on the other; and therefore that they will be careful, as the MERCATOR has always done, to quote their Authorities for all they shall say; the Validity of which, when Confronted with those of this Paper, may be easily examined, and the Readers may judge whether are in the Right; if they do not think fit to do this, as the MERCATOR will not think it worth while to take any Notice of them, so neither can they expect it of any one else.

That their Scheme of which they boasted, is it self one general Complication of Fraud; and false Representations has been made appear, even to both Houses of Parliament; The MERCATOR in that, as in every other Case of like Nature, says nothing from himself, but speaks the Language of the Custom House Books, gives exact Copies of the Commissioners Reports, sign'd under their Hands, and proves every thing in particular by Authentick Papers; if these are false, the MERCATOR would be very

very willing to see the Proof of it ; if any mistake has happened, whether wilful or by the negligence of Clerks, the Books are remaining, and may be referr'd to: Why do not these People tell us where these Mistakes lye? why do they not prove that the **MERCATORS** has made false Draughts of those Accounts and Reports? omitted any thing or added any thing to make his Arguments appear the Better; as on the other Hand has been proved to be their practice, even in a most scandalous manner, in their late **SCHEME**, under the hands of the Commissioners of the *Customs*; and by them Laid before both Houses of Parliament.

All the use this Paper shall make of this unfair Usage, is only to proceed with the same Caution in all that it shall make publick, still taking care to offer nothing but what is sufficiently confirm'd by such Authorities, as shall always stand the Test of the strictest Examination; taking no notice of any thing which shall be said in Opposition to it, unless it comes likewise supported by such Proofs as may give a due Weight, and make it reasonable to be Inquired into.

But to return to the Subject of Trade, from which as few Digressions as possible, shall be made in this Paper.

The last **MERCATOR** gave a true Prospect of the State of one Branch of our Trade in France as it now stands, and as it might now have stood, had the Treaty taken place, that is to say, the Branch of Trade which concerns our Woollen Manufactures in particular. The Manufacturers of Great Britain may there see what Circumstances they are now in as to Trade, and what their unnatural Joy is built upon which they have so publickly shewn at the Delay of the Advantages which they might by this time have tasted of in their Trade.

Next to the said Exportation of our *Woollen Manufacture*, the *Fishing Trade* is our immediate Concern, and that more especially since our Union with Scotland: The Northern Parts of Britain have a peculiar Interest in the Fishery, and the securing a Market in France for the great Quantities of Fish that are or may be Cured in Scotland, and in the North, and West parts of England, is of so great Consequence to this Nation, that it cannot be omitted in a Treaty of Commerce.

The French had not forgotten this part, or to encourage their own Subjects to launch into the Fishery as well as into the other Branches of our Trade: The high Duties in France laid upon Fish from Great Britain, were an effectual Support to the French Projects of Fishing, and a Bar to the Fishing of Great Britain: For Scotland by the Union being brought into the same Prohibitions, and being esteemed as the same Nation, came thereby also under the same Inconveniencies of Trade, and lost the Advantage of their Trade to France, which before was very considerable, especially in Fish; Scotland having always before the Union, Exported to France yearly, a very great Quantity of Herring, Salmon and white Fish.

It cannot but be grateful to all those Parts of Britain which are sensible of the Benefit of the Fishery, and who depend upon the Exportation of the Fish when taken, to understand that the Importation of our Fish into France is now, by this Treaty, left open upon very easy Terms, and particularly, upon the same Terms with the Dutch; which could never be obtained before.

The just Care and Concern which Her Majesty has shewn for the Interest of Her own Subjects, and the Extent of their Commerce, has been seen in removing that Inequality, and providing that our Fishery shall now be upon the same Foot with that of the Dutch, and have the same Encouragement of an open Trade to France; a thing which however the Dutch have Taught us to reject here, they always took care to secure for themselves, and found no little advantage in it.

The Merchants and Gentlemen of the North-part of Britain, and of the West also, have frequently express'd to the Government their great Concern for the obtaining this

this Liberty of Commerce ; and the great Advantages which it would be to them, if obtain'd ; as may be seen by the Representation of the Royal Burroughs in *Scotland*, formerly sent up to the Lords Commissioners of Trade ; and of others also : And unless we could suppose them to Act in Contradiction to themselves, it must be a particular Satisfaction to them all, to see what provision Her Majesty has made for the said *Fishing-Trade* by this Treaty ; and it must be impossible, without an Insatiation, which it would be rude to suggest, that the Merchants and Trading People of *Scotland*, of the North of *England*, of the Coasts about *Yarmouth* and *Looseff*, or the Counties of *Cornwall* and *Devon*, can be drawn into say, they are pleas'd that the Articles of this Treaty remain Ineffectual.

Having thus often mention'd *Scotland*, and the *Fishing Trade*, it is proper also to take notice how, by the present Treaty, Her Majesty made it Her especial Care, in behalf of Her *Scott* Subjects as well as *English*, to have all those new Burthens which were laid upon the *British Fishing-Trade* only, and which gave that Trade away from us to the *Dutch*, taken away in *France* ; and as it is very surprizing, that the Power of any Party-Influence, should make us in *England* insensible of such advantages. So the next Paper shall let you see what those Advantages are, and that they are not equally disregarded in *Scotland*, as they are here.

FINIS.